

Wheat Export

4416. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export wheat at a price lesser than the cost incurred on its procurement, cartage, storage and handling charges;

(b) if so, the prices at which wheat has been exported and its cost per quintal; and

(c) the reasons for exporting wheat at such a low unit price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Wheat is being made available by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for export through PSUs/Agencies viz. STC, MMTC, PEC, NCCF, NAFED and MARKFED at a price now lower than the Central Issue Price (OP) for BPL category which, at present, is Rs. 4150/- per MT. The export price of wheat is dependent on international market forces.

(c) As on 01.10.2000, wheat stocks were 268.50 lakh tonnes as against the buffer norm of 116 lakh tonnes. Disposal of such surplus stocks (of which export is but only one of the options) saves their carrying cost, obviates deterioration and frees up storage space.